

**Question for written answer E-001222/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Request for guidelines on carrying out damming works in EU floodplains and river basins

In many river basins, the local authorities keep proposing that reclaimed islands or semi-permeable weirs be built on the bed of natural rivers to prevent potential problems associated with flash floods. This is happening with the River Tagliamento, the last-remaining morphologically intact river corridor in the Italian Alps and indeed Europe, which has been widely studied as a model for river restoration works. The biodiversity strategy's goal for the near future is to restore both freshwater ecosystems affected by pollution and hydromorphological changes, and 25 000 km of the EU's watercourses. This restoration work includes re-establishing the natural functions of rivers, removing barriers that obstruct the passage of migratory fish, and improving the flow of water and sediment.

In view of the above and also in reference to the objectives of the biodiversity strategy, does the Commission agree that there is a need to provide the Member States with specific guidelines setting out when new (movable or fixed) barriers may and may not be built in river beds, particularly with natural rivers like the Tagliamento.